

Please amend the following claims:

Claim 6, line 3, after "thereof" delete ", preferably wherein" and insert -- . --  
(period)

lines 4 - 5, delete in entirety

Claim 8, line 3 delete", preferably wherein the trehalose" and insert -- . -- (period)

lines 4-6, delete in entirety

Claim 9, line 2, change "above" to -- greater than --

Claim 10 (twice amended) A plant, or a part thereof, or plant cells, obtainable by a process according to claim 1, which contain trehalose following treatment with trehalose inhibitor in an amount above 0.01% (fresh weight)[, preferably wherein said plant, or a part thereof is a Solanaceae species, more preferably Solanum tuberosum or Nicotiana tabacum].

Claim 15, line 2, delete ", preferably increased drought tolerance"

Please add the following new claims.

Claim 25 A process for accumulating trehalose in cells of a plant, said plant cells having a trehalase activity and having been genetically altered so as to contain a gene coding for a bipartite ~~trehalase~~ <sup>trehalose</sup> synthesizing enzyme that is expressed in said plant cells with resultant production of trehalose in the plant cells, said process comprising inhibiting the trehalase activity

by (a) exogenously administering to the plant a trehalase inhibitor in an effective amount to inhibit the trehalase activity sufficiently to allow or increase an accumulation of trehalose in the plant cells, or (b) transforming the plant cells with a DNA sequence encoding the trehalase inhibitor so as to cause expression of the trehalase inhibitor in the plant cells in an effective amount to inhibit the trehalase activity sufficiently to allow or increase an accumulation of the trehalose in the plant cells.

~~Claim 26            A process according to claim 25, wherein the trehalase activity is inhibited by transforming the plant cells with the DNA sequence, said DNA sequence producing an RNA transcript that is sufficiently complementary to an RNA transcript encoding said trehalase activity to inhibit said activity by antisense inhibition.~~

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~~Claim 27            A process according to claim 25, wherein the trehalase activity is inhibited by transforming the plant cells with the DNA sequence, said DNA sequence comprising a promoter that is preferentially expressed in select cells of the plant whereby the trehalase activity is preferentially inhibited in said select cells.~~

~~Claim 28            A process according to claim 27, wherein the plant is a *Solanum tuberosum* plant and the select cells are present in a micro-tuber of the plant.~~

~~Claim 29            A plant or plant part comprising the select cells produced in the process of claim 27.~~

~~Claim 30            A process according to claim 1, wherein the trehalase inhibitor comprises~~

validamycin A in an amount between 100mM and 10mM in aqueous solution.

Claim 31 A process according to claim 30, wherein the trehalase inhibitor comprises validamycin A in an amount between 0.1 and 1mM in aqueous solution.

Claim 32 A process according to claim 8, wherein the trehalase inhibitor is the antisense gene to the gene encoding the information for trehalase.

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Claim 33 A process according to claim 10, wherein the plant, the part thereof or the plant cells are from a *Solanaceae* species.

Claim 34 A process according to claim 33, wherein the *Solanaceae* species is *Solanum tuberosum* or *Nicotiana tabacum*.

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#### REMARKS

The Official Action of May 12, 1998 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby affirm their election of the claims of Group III (claims 1 and 4 - 15). In this connection, the Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to a clerical error in the penultimate paragraph on page 4 of the Official Action which states "Group I (sic), claims 1, 4 - 15". The claims elected by the Applicants are drawn to the use of a trehalase inhibitor (Group III).